

# USING WIKIS TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

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# WHAT IS A WIKI?

Wikipedia defines wiki as:

“A **wiki** is a website that allows the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages via a web browser using a simplified markup language or a WYSIWYG text editor. Wikis are typically powered by wiki software and are often used to create collaborative wiki websites, to power community websites, for personal note taking, in corporate intranets, and in knowledge management systems. Wikis may exist to serve a specific purpose, and in such cases, users use their editorial rights to remove material that is considered "off topic." Such is the case of the collaborative encyclopedia Wikipedia. In contrast, open purpose wikis accept content without firm rules as to how the content should be organized. Ward Cunningham, the developer of the first wiki software, WikiWikiWeb, originally described it as "the simplest online database that could possibly work." "Wiki" is the Hawaiian word for "fast".”

# WHY BRING A WIKI TO THE CLASSROOM?

- ❧ Great motivator for students
- ❧ Easy to monitor
- ❧ Allows for creativity and innovation
- ❧ Encourages participation of all students
- ❧ Promotes communication between students, teachers, and parents
- ❧ A new, interesting way to learn

# HOW CAN I USE IT IN A CLASSROOM?

- ⑥ Simple class website
- ⑥ Peer-reviewed projects
- ⑥ Group projects
- ⑥ Manage school and classroom documents
- ⑥ Classroom discussion and debate
- ⑥ Teacher collaboration
- ⑥ Post classroom assignments
- ⑥ Collaborate with classrooms ANYWHERE

# What are the benefits of Using Wikis?

1. Serve as platform for collaborative problem solving; group reports; and WebEssays
2. Learn from others
3. Develop a higher level of critical thinking
4. Deepen investigative skills
5. Develop skills for resolving conflict and working effectively in a team
6. Empower students to create knowledge
7. Prepare students for world of work
8. Encourage creativity
9. Work can be done from any location with web access
10. Repository of information until needed

1. Information is accessible to everyone on the World Wide Web
2. Wiki needs to be well designed and organized to make information useful
3. No Internet connection = No work
4. Lack of meaningful assignments
5. How to grade/assess student input
6. Leading students to contextualize all of the information gathered

# What are the challenges of using Wikis?

# OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

Information is accessible  
to everyone on the World  
Wide Web:

- \* Be sure to protect Wiki with a  
secure password.

- \* If each student has their own  
password, stress the importance  
of keeping it private to protect  
their own work and the work of  
their classmates.



Wiki needs to be well designed and organized to make information useful:

- \* Set up the Wiki so that it is easy to use.
- \* Demonstrate to students how to access the area they need to use to store their information or work.
- \* Designate someone to monitor and organize content as needed.

No Internet connection =  
No work:

- \* Always have alternative plans for these occasions! (Be flexible)
- \* Allow time for students to "catch up" when Internet connection is functioning.
- \* ?????

## Lack of meaningful assignments:

- \* Make sure the assignment is dynamic - not closed.
- \* Make sure the assignment requires all contributors to participate.
- \* Participation is required to move work forward and reach a conclusion.

# How to grade/assess student input:

- \* Assessment of students must include process as well as product.
- \* Assess students on how well they gather pertinent information.
- \* Assess students on their ability to synthesize and use the information from everyone in the group to reach a conclusion to the problem presented.

## Leading students to contextualize all of the information gathered:

- \* Be sure your Wiki-based assignment illustrates the stages of development in thinking, collaboration, synthesis, and application.
- \* Avoid problems that are not complex or have a preset solution.
- \* Allow students adequate time for the process to unfold.

# STRATEGIES FOR USING WIKIS IN THE CLASSROOM

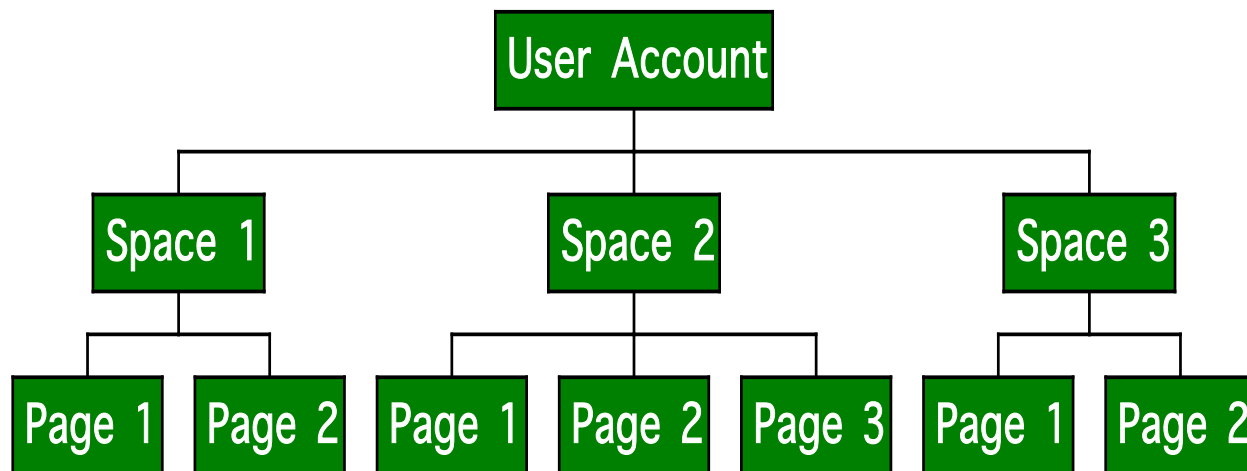
- ✿ Collaborative Projects: i.e. Research Project focused on specific tribe of American Indians
- ✿ Student demonstration of knowledge: i.e. Create a timeline of events in U. S. from 1800 to 1850
- ✿ Online resources for classroom use: i.e. websites to use to assist with school work
- ✿ Use as a classroom webpage: all information students need in one location
- ✿ Wiki filing cabinet: place to store files, pictures, videos, student artifacts, etc.

**WHERE TO START...**

# WIKI TERMS



- User Account: Your identity on Wikispaces, consisting of username, password, and email address
- Space: A wiki on which you can collaborate
- Page: Each space can consist of multiple pages





# WIKI TERMS CONTINUED

Wikispaces has different permissions settings for your space

- Public: Anyone can view or edit your Wikispace
- Protected: Anyone can view your space but only members can edit

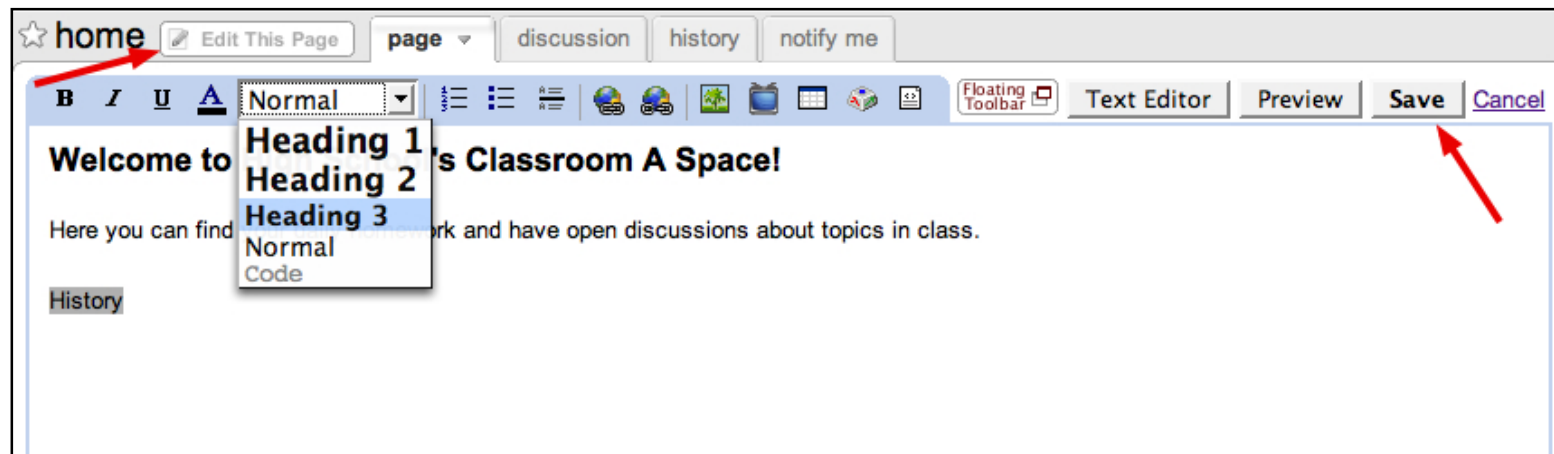
The screenshot shows the Wikispaces interface for a space named 'example-space'. The user 'sarahcove' is logged in, with links for 'My Account', 'Help', and 'Sign Out'. The page title is 'Members and Permissions'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Actions' (New Page, Recent Changes, Manage Space, Search) and 'Navigation' (Home, edit navigation). The main content area is titled 'Space Permissions' and contains a table with three rows: 'Public', 'Protected', and 'Private'. The 'Private' row is highlighted in green. An 'Update' button is at the bottom right of the table.

	Level	Description
	Public	Everyone - including anonymous visitors - can view and edit pages
	Protected	Everyone can view pages, only members of this space can edit pages
	Private	Only members of this space can view and edit pages

Update

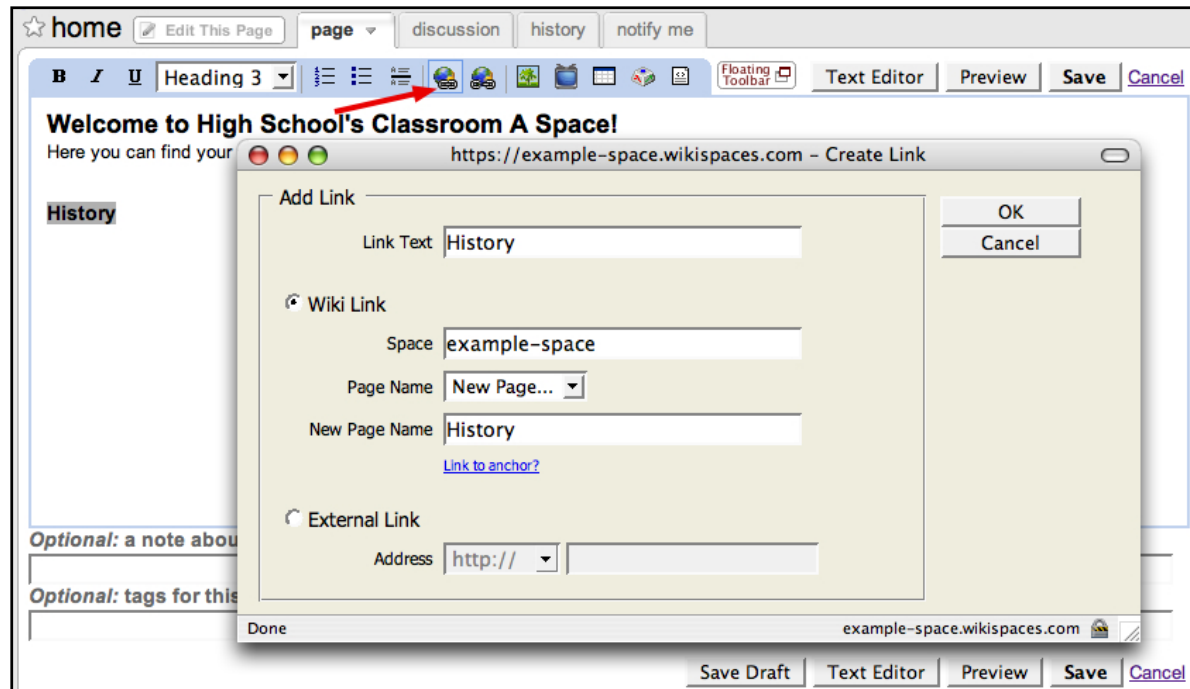
# EDITING YOUR WIKI

- Click the Edit This Page button at the top of your wiki.
- Write the text you would like on your page.
- You can format it with bold, underline, italics, headings, and more.
- Once you are done editing, click Save.




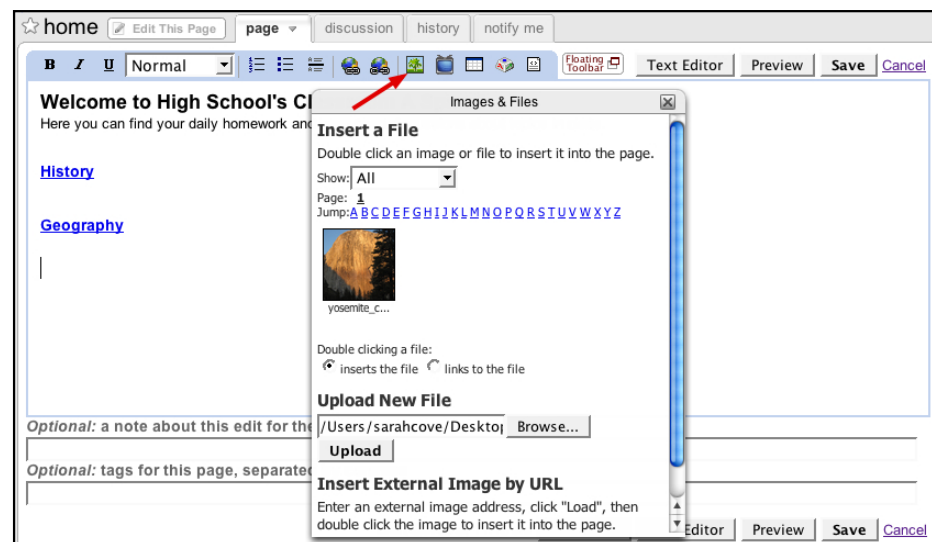
# ADDING LINKS TO YOUR WIKI

- Click Edit This Page.
- Highlight the text you would like to link and click on the earth icon in the toolbar.
- Another window will appear allowing you to create a link to another page in your space or another website.
- Click Ok.



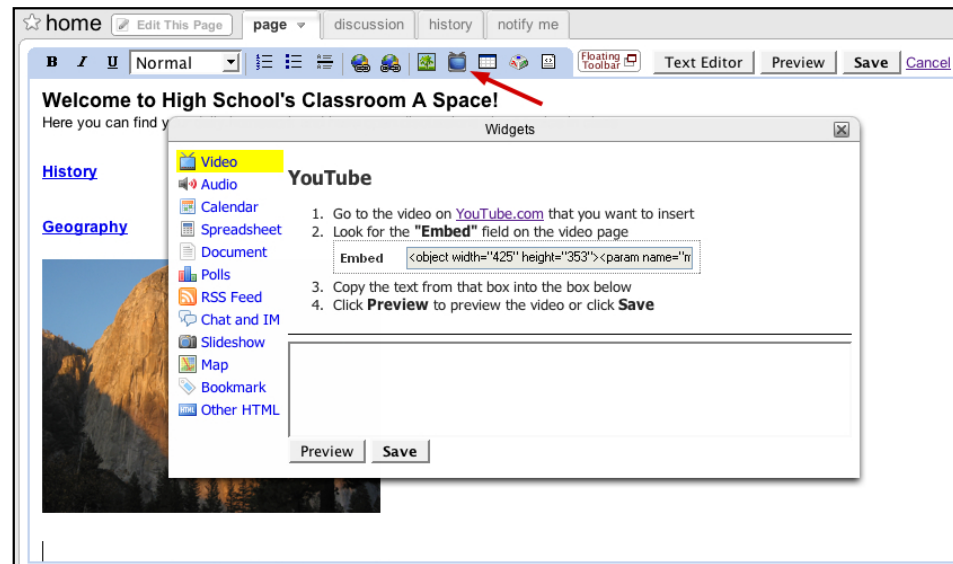
# ADDING IMAGES TO YOUR WIKI

- Click Edit This Page.
- Click the icon that looks like a tree. 
- Browse your computer for the image you would like and click Open.
- Upload the chosen picture or file.
- Place your cursor where you would like the image on the page.
- Double click the image or file to place it on the page.



# ADDING MEDIA TO YOUR WIKI

- Click Edit This Page.
- Go to the icon of the TV in the toolbar.
- Choose the type of object you'd like to embed.
- Follow the instructions for embedding each object.
- Click Save.



# LINKS

Wikispaces - <http://www.wikispaces.com/>

## Resources:

1. <http://www.articlesnatch.com/Article/In-The-Classroom--The-Benefits-Of-Using-Wikis/1228635>
2. <http://campustechnology.com/articles/2009/02/11/3-challenges-to-wiki-use-in-instruction.aspx>
3. <http://www.suite101.com/content/5-strategies-for-using-wikis-in-the-classroom-a124331>
4. <http://www.gadgetgirlaccessories.com/?s=wiki>
5. [http://idesweb.bc.edu/ides/website/teaching\\_tools/wikis/benefits](http://idesweb.bc.edu/ides/website/teaching_tools/wikis/benefits)

**WIKIS TO CHECK OUT..**

<http://eduwikius.wikispaces.com>  
<http://nets-implementation.iste.wikispaces.net>  
<http://hcsdclassdemo.pbwiki.com>  
<http://e-tools.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://ttebyu.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://wikitlc.pbwiki.com>  
<http://blogswikisandmore.pbwiki.com>  
<http://bishopblogs.wikispaces.com/page/diff/home/6816195>  
<http://westwood.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://ah-bon-french.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://3rdgrade.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://arborheights.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://aristotle-experiment.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://armstrong-history.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://auladiver.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://bishopblogs.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://cesa5mathscience.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://haultain-math.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://theconnectedclassroom.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://collaborationnation.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://reich-chemistry.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://codeblue.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://primaryextension.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://holicong.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://mswebster.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://supportblogging.com/>



<http://flatclassroomproject.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://davidwarlick.com/wiki/pmwiki.php?n=Main.HomePage>  
<http://classroomgoogleearth.wikispaces.com/>  
[http://www.ahistoryteacher.com/~ahistory/apwhreview/  
index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.ahistoryteacher.com/~ahistory/apwhreview/index.php?title=Main_Page)  
<http://blogswikisandmore.pbwiki.com>  
<http://epochewiki.pbwiki.com/RhetoricAndComposition>  
<http://walkinguofmclasses.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://vwhandbook.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://hiki.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://thesandbox.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://booklovers.pbwiki.com/Princeton%20Public%20Library>  
<http://id2-124-dg.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://pp104-06.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://mindmapping.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://sclaw06.pbwiki.com/>  
<http://cmp217-s07.pbwiki.com>  
<http://baw07.pbwiki.com>  
<http://mrswilchersprekclass.pbwiki.com>  
<http://villagewiki.pbwiki.com>